

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 290802Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 155

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3545

E.O. 11652: N/A

TEGS: PFOR CH KN

SUBJ: PEKING SUPPORTS NORTH KOREAN PEACE PACT PROPOSAL

SUMMARY. THE PRC HAS ISSUED AN AUTHORITATIVE ENDORSEMENT OF PYONGYANG'S PROPOSAL FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A PEACE PACT WITH THE UNITED STATES. PEKING'S STATEMENT APPEARS TO BE FOR THE RECORD AND DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT THE CHINESE INTEND TO PROVIDE ANYTHING MORE THAN PROPAGANDA SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH KOREAN PLAN.

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY ON MARCH 28 CARRIED AN AUTHORITATIVE "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE SUPPORTING THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES TO REPLACE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ("ANOTHER GREAT EFFORT... 59 PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE FATHERLAND.") THE ARTICLE PREDICTABLY BLAMED SOUTH KOREAN OBSTRUCTIONISM AND THE "AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE BY U.S. IMPERIALISTS" FOR THE PROTRACTED DIVISION OF THE PENINSULA AND CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IN THE SOUTH. IT CONCLUDED WITH A PLEDGE OF CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE

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"KOREAN PEOPLE IN THEIR CAUSE OF OUSTING OUTSIDE INTERVENTION

AND WINNING THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION" OF
KOREA.

2. COMMENT. DESPITE THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE CHINESE COMMENT,
THIS ENDORSEMENT OF THE NORTHKOREAN PLOY STRIKES US AS FAIRLY TEPID.
THERE IS NO SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE ARTICLE OVER THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES AND PEOPLE'S DAILY DOES NOT FOLLOW
THE NORTH KOREAN LINE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOUTH
ARE HOPELESS.
CROSS

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